AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for operating an internal combustion engine (10) equipped with a piston pump as a high-pressure pump (18), which is driven by a drive shaft (28) of the engine (10); the high-pressure pump (18) delivers fuel from a low-pressure region (16) to a high-pressure side (38) and a quantity control valve (44) sets the quantity of fuel delivered by the high-pressure pump (18),
wherein the high-pressure pump (18) functions in a two-point operation, alternating between full delivery for one of individual ~~or~~ and successive piston strokes and idle delivery for individual or successive piston strokes and, when the pressure falls below a lower pressure threshold, the full delivery is activated until an upper pressure threshold is reached.

2. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the two-point operation is activated when one of the engine speed falls below a minimum speed ~~and/or~~ and the injection quantity falls below a minimum quantity.

3. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,
wherein above the minimum speed, the high-pressure pump (18) is operated with partial delivery.

4. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein after the upper pressure threshold has been reached, the high-pressure pump (18) is switched into idle delivery mode until the pressure falls below the lower pressure threshold again.

5. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein the high-pressure pump (18) is operated in full delivery mode when the quantity control valve (44) is closed and is operated in the partial delivery mode when the quantity control valve (44) is intermittently or continuously open.

6. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein the quantity control valve (44) remains open down to a lower pressure threshold and then, when the lower pressure threshold has been reached, is closed until an upper threshold is reached.

7. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein the quantity control valve (44) is opened when the upper pressure threshold is reached.

8. (currently amended) An internal combustion engine (10) equipped with a piston pump as a high-pressure pump (18), which is driven by a drive shaft (28) of the engine (10); the high-pressure pump (18) delivers fuel from a low-pressure region (16) to a

high-pressure side (38) and a quantity control valve (44) sets the quantity ~~(m)~~ of fuel ~~that~~ delivered by the high-pressure pump (18) ~~delivers to the accumulator (22)~~, wherein the high-pressure pump (18) ~~has the capacity to be operated with both full delivery and idle delivery when in idle mode~~ functions in a two-point operation, alternating between full delivery for one of individual and successive piston strokes and idle delivery for individual or successive piston strokes and, when the pressure falls below a lower pressure threshold, the full delivery is activated until an upper pressure threshold is reached.

9. (currently amended) A control unit for an internal combustion engine, wherein ~~it is able to execute a method as recited in claim 1~~ the internal combustion engine (10) is equipped with a piston pump as a high-pressure pump (18), which is driven by a drive shaft (28) of the engine (10); the high-pressure pump (18) delivers fuel from a low-pressure region (16) to a high-pressure side (38) and a quantity control valve (44) sets the quantity of fuel delivered by the high-pressure pump (18),
wherein the high-pressure pump (18) functions in a two-point operation, alternating between full delivery for one of individual and successive piston strokes and idle delivery for individual or successive piston strokes and, when the pressure falls below a lower pressure threshold, the control unit activates full delivery until an upper pressure threshold is reached.

10. (currently amended) A piece of software for a stored program control unit for an internal combustion engine,

wherein ~~it~~ the software is able to execute a method ~~as recited in claim 1~~ for operating an internal combustion engine (10) equipped with a piston pump as a high-pressure pump (18), which is driven by a drive shaft (28) of the engine (10); the high-pressure pump (18) delivers fuel from a low-pressure region (16) to a high-pressure side (38) and a quantity control valve (44) sets the quantity of fuel delivered by the high-pressure pump (18),

wherein the high-pressure pump (18) functions in a two-point operation, alternating between full delivery for one of individual and successive piston strokes and idle delivery for individual or successive piston strokes and, when the pressure falls below a lower pressure threshold, the full delivery is activated until an upper pressure threshold is reached.